

HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE PRECINCT
MEETING
March 10, 2010

Present

Gary Kubik, Chairman & Commissioner
Chuck Rage, Commissioner
June White, Commissioner
John Gebhart, Treasurer

Chairman Kubik called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Kubik introduced the members of the Board.

Chairman Kubik asked for a moment of silence to commemorate the passing of Jack Knox and Steve Hazen, owner of Guiseppe's.

Entertainment

Glen French former President and CEO of the Hampton Chamber of Commerce came forward. He said the Continentals have allowed him to continue Jack Knox's work booking entertainment for the Seashell Stage.

Mr. French said the original format has been reworked. The Continentals as a band will continue. They will add an additional person. Mr. French said he contacted all of the bands who performed last year and he will schedule as soon as information is available. Mr. French said Idol was Jack Knox's creation. P.O. Box 442 in Hampton has been opened for applications for this year. Angela West has coordinated country bands in the past and she will continue to do this. Veterans' Appreciation Weekend was a special event for Jack. Mr. French said he has had a hard time contacting the military bands. Afterburner, part of the Air Force Band of Liberty, will do a show in July and at the Seafood Festival. Mr. French said he is still waiting for confirmation for Veterans' Weekend. He is still trying to contact Tops in Blue. Everything is moving forward.

Commissioner Rage thanked Mr. French for taking on this work.

Marketing Update

Mr. Kane said Jack Knox will be sorely missed and thanked Mr. French for stepping up.

Mr. Kane presented the new brochures. They will be available shortly. Mr. Kane said he spoke to Greg Grady and the volunteer list for the sand sculpture event is up on the website.

Mr. Kane reminded all business owners to contact him if something needs to be changed for their information on the website.

Commissioner Rage said press releases need to go out saying all is well at Hampton Beach. There has been some misinformation since the fire.

Chairman Kubik asked how many fireworks shoots there would be. Mr. Kane replied that there would be 17 including the Harvest Festival and New Years Eve.

Beautification

Linda Gebhart said this week seeds for the garden were started by the science teacher at Winnacunnet High. The Committee has been cleaning up the gardens and can always use volunteer help. The stone in the Mile High Garden has been moved slightly and it is important to keep an eye on it.

The Earth Day Committee is planning another fair on April 24th. The Beautification Committee will have a table. The issue is insurance. Ms. Gebhart asked the Commissioners if the Committee could have the same insurance as last year. Chairman Kubik said that would be done.

Ms. Gebhart said she has talked to Brian Warburton about cleanup on 101. She and Ms. Scanlan would also like to do something at North Beach.

The Fire House Swing dance was cancelled because of the fire and rescheduled for April 17th.

Ms. Gebhart discussed recycling guides. Commissioner Rage said these can be picked up at the Post Office.

There have been two meetings of the Crime Watch and there are now 13 people participating. Signs and fliers will be ordered. Captains for neighborhoods are being recruited. Deputy Chief Sawyer said there will be a training in May.

Commissioner Rage said that businesses that are open now need to put out recycling containers. Mr. Kane said there are not enough containers. Rick Griffin, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, said all residents will get a barrel and the businesses can purchase. Mr. Griffin said money is already being saved with the recycling effort.

Fireworks

Warren from American Thunder said show dates have been scheduled. Rain dates are the same as last year. He will get Coast Guard permits if Commissioners agree to dates.

Chairman Kubik said he will ask the Fire Chief and Police Chief to attend the next meeting to make sure everything is workable.

Warren said this year the format will be changed just a little and will be more like the New Years Eve shoot.

Old Business

Commissioner Rage said the playground is busy and it should be decided when to put the equipment back in. Also there is not a gate at this time. There is signage for hours and the police will enforce. Chairman Kubik said it was a good idea to get the gates fixed and then return the equipment.

Commissioner White said that there were many dogs leaving waste on the beach last weekend. There were also horses. Suggestions are needed about how to address this problem.

Hampton Beach Area Commission

Geannina Scanlan said the purpose of this Commission is to advise the Town, Village District and the State regarding the implementation of the master plan. Part of the infrastructure project has been completed and they have finalized a parking study. There is planning for a bigger bridge and a visitors' center. Investors for development are also being sought. There will be an economic development summit in late April or early May. The intention is to bring the business community together with the public sector to discuss how Hampton Beach can be revitalized. The Commission would like to ask the Village District for its support.

Moved by Commissioner Rage, seconded by Chairman Kubik, to lend the Village District's support to the Hampton Beach Area Commission in their efforts to revitalize Hampton Beach.

Vote: 3-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Chairman Kubik said he felt that the present Precinct Counsel, Steve Roberts, seems to be overwhelmed and not able to spend the necessary time on Precinct matters. Chairman Kubik said he had spoken to former Precinct Attorney, Suzanne Somers, and she would like to come back.

Moved by Chairman Kubik, seconded by Commissioner Rage, to rehire Suzanne Somers as the Precinct Attorney.

Vote: 3-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Rage said he had received many phone calls for and against putting a fire station at the present location. He said he is for a fire station somewhere at the beach. He asked if the Precinct would give the Town land for a new fire station. It is necessary to work with the Town to protect properties at the beach.

Chairman Kubik said the Commissioners have always wanted a fire station at the beach and feel the voters should decide. Chairman said he really didn't think the location out back is appropriate, but wants to hear from the public.

Public Comment

Maureen Buckley said for many years the Precinct has leased the present building to the Town. She asked why there couldn't be a new fire station and have the Precinct lease it to the Town. Mr. Griffin replied in that case the Precinct would have to pay for the fire station because of bonding and possibly because of rates.

Richard Reniere, 29 Highland Avenue, said his main concern was how the footprint would fit on the Precinct property. He said Chief Silver had provided him with some additional information and a drawing showing how it would fit. Mr. Reniere showed the schematic drawing. This would not require demolition of the present building.

Commissioner Rage said with this plan approximately 10 parking spaces would be lost.

Commissioner Rage said as the warrant now stands, the Precinct will give the Town the land. This will still need to go before the Town. Mr. Griffin said the Town could call a special meeting in the fall to take care of this. This would be good because bonding could be obtained for both fire station projects. Commissioner Rage asked about doing a warrant article to renovate the present building. Mr. Griffin said this was not likely to happen. Commissioner Rage asked if a new fire station would be adequately staffed and if there would be an ambulance. Mr. Griffin said he didn't see a lot of hiring of fire staff in the future, but everything was on the table.

Commissioner White said if the Precinct deeds this over to the Town, it is gone. Commissioner Rage said this would happen only if a station were built. Commissioner White said she was opposed to this.

Commissioner Rage asked what would happen if the warrant article was not put forward. Mr. Griffin said the problem is getting people to vote for it and that he didn't know what would happen next.

Chairman Kubik said he had received calls from residents who say they want the fire station but want to hold off on the land.

Ms. Gebhart said she was still opposed and that was how she would vote. She said the Board of Selectmen have been argumentative when the Precinct has attended their meetings. There has been a lack of communication from them. There is also the issue of losing history. Ms. Gebhart said this is the wrong place for the station.

Mr. Kane said he was worried about flooding at this location. He said he didn't think both stations should be done at the same time. It would not work. Mr. Griffin said the Fire Chief said there would be no problem with water.

Commissioner White said there was a problem because there will be a small number of people voting on the 26th because so many residents are still in Florida.

Ms. Scanlan said life and property cannot be replaced. She said the Town signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2001 stating there would always be fire protection to protect Hampton Beach. Ms. Scanlan said timing is the major concern. The present Memorandum of Understanding did not have a good foundation. The package should be well thought out. There are doubts about this being the best location and flooding is a problem.

Mr. Griffin said the Precinct Commissioners have not come to the Board of Selectmen meetings. The Board meets every Monday night and is willing to talk about all of this. This could have been worked on before now.

Commissioner White said the Commissioners attended the Board of Selectmen meetings three times and were blindsided. She said she thought all the information should be in hand before this is presented and that information is not available at this time.

Ms. Scanlan agreed that the voters should not be rushed.

Mr. Kane again mentioned the flooding problems. Mr. Reniere said the word of experts needs to be heeded.

Ms. Buckley asked if it wasn't possible to get a bond to renovate the present building. Commissioner Rage said he felt a bond could be obtained.

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Commissioner White suggested having a special meeting on this subject. There won't be enough people present on the 26th for a fair vote.

Chairman Kubik said he would like to see more people involved and a special meeting would be a good idea. A special meeting could be held sometime in June.

Commissioner Rage said he thought most people were back from Florida now and the vote should be taken on the 26th.

Moved by Chairman Kubik, seconded by Commissioner White, that the voters be given an opportunity to vote for a special meeting in June on the fire station issue instead of putting forth Article 3 at the March 26th meeting.

Vote: 2-1 (Rage)-0. Motion passed.

Mr. Griffin said the Board of Selectmen are going to go forward no matter what and they are not going to rehabilitate the present building under any circumstances.

Closing Comments

Ms. Gebhart said voter registration will be on March 20th from 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the fire station and prior to the meeting on the 26th. The Precinct vote is on March 26th and residents must be physically present to vote on warrant articles. To prove residency something proving it such as a drivers license, utility bill, etc. must be presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary